

**Amendment 7 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Dolphin and Wahoo Fishery of the Atlantic and Amendment 33 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region  
(Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 7 and Snapper-Grouper Amendment 33)**

*Frequently Asked Questions  
October 2015*

**What is the purpose of Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 7 and Snapper-Grouper Amendment 33?**

Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 7 and Snapper-Grouper Amendment 33 would:

- Allow recreational fishermen to bring lawfully harvested fillets of dolphin and wahoo from The Bahamas into the U.S. federal waters and update regulations that currently allow recreational fishermen to bring snapper-grouper fillets from The Bahamas into the U.S. federal waters.
- For determining the bag limit, specify two fillets are equivalent to one fish for dolphin, wahoo, and snapper-grouper species brought into the U.S. federal waters from The Bahamas.
- Require fishers to retain skin on the entire fillet of any dolphin, wahoo, or snapper-grouper species lawfully harvested in Bahamian waters and transported through the U.S. federal waters.
- Require fishing gear to be stowed while transiting the U.S. federal waters from The Bahamas. A vessel carrying fillets of dolphin, wahoo, or snapper-grouper species on board would not be allowed to stop in the U.S. federal waters during transit.
- Require stamped and dated passports, as well as valid current Bahamian cruising and fishing permits to prove that the recreational fishers were indeed in The Bahamas.
- Not allow recreationally caught dolphin, wahoo, or snapper-grouper from The Bahamas to be sold or purchased in the U.S.
- Not exempt recreational fishermen from any other Federal fishing regulations such as fishing seasons, recreational bag limits, size limits, and prohibited species.

**Why is Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 7 and Snapper-Grouper Amendment 33 necessary?**

- Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 7 and Snapper-Grouper Amendment 33 is necessary to increase the social and economic benefits to recreational fishermen by improving the condition of dolphin and wahoo caught on the trips to the Bahamas and brought into the U.S. federal waters, and improve consistency and enforceability by modifying the regulations in the U.S. federal waters regarding the possession of fillets of dolphin, wahoo, or snapper grouper species that were legally harvested in Bahamian waters.

**Who would be affected by Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 7 and Snapper-Grouper Amendment 33?**

- Recreational fishers who fish for dolphin, wahoo, and snapper-grouper species in Bahamian waters and bring fillets of these species into federal waters (3-200 miles offshore) of the U.S. federal waters.

**When might Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 7 and Snapper-Grouper Amendment 33 be effective?**

- If a final rule is published, regulations could be effective by Spring 2016.

**How can I comment on the Notice of Availability and Proposed Rule for Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 7 and Snapper-Grouper Amendment 33?**

- NOAA Fisheries is accepting comments on the notice of availability for Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 7 and Snapper-Grouper Amendment 33 from September 17, 2015, to November 16, 2015; and from October 7, 2015, to November 6, 2015 on the proposed rule.
- Comments on Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 7 and Snapper-Grouper Amendment 33 and its proposed rule can be submitted electronically via the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal. Go to [www.regulations.gov/#!documentDetail;D=NOAA-NMFS-2015-0047-0004](http://www.regulations.gov/#!documentDetail;D=NOAA-NMFS-2015-0047-0004), click the “Comment Now!” icon, complete the required fields, and enter or attach your comments. Written comments can be submitted to the address below.

**Where can I get more information on Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 7 and Snapper-Grouper Amendment 33 and the Proposed Rule?**

- Contact NOAA Fisheries  
*By Mail:* Southeast Regional Office, c/o Nikhil Mehta  
263 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue South  
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701-5505  
*By FAX:* (727) 824-5308  
*By Phone:* (727) 824-5305
- Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 7 and Snapper-Grouper Amendment 33 and its Proposed Rule may be found online at the NOAA Fisheries Southeast Regional Office Web site at: [http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable\\_fisheries/s\\_atl/generic/2015/dw7\\_sg33/index.html](http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable_fisheries/s_atl/generic/2015/dw7_sg33/index.html) or the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council’s Web site at <http://www.safmc.net>.